



sacramento river  
conservation area  
forum  
*a voice for all interests*



SRCAF

*River Reach*

December, 2005

## Project Tracker Recap

Ninety-seven projects have been entered in Project Tracker to date. These projects then go before the Technical Advisory Committee. The TAC not only provides the SRCAF with technical review of projects that affect natural process along the Sacramento River, particularly restoration efforts, but it instigates or facilitates specific scientific studies such as: large woody debris monitoring; buffer zone/cross boundary relationships; and FIS development including riparian habitat mapping.

The following projects were reviewed by the TAC in 2005 and entered into Project Tracker: **Lower Clear Creek Monitoring Program; Clear Creek anadromous salmonid monitoring program; Measuring the Performance of Riparian Restoration Projects on the Sacramento River; Monitoring effectiveness of watershed improvement measures in Deer, Mill, Antelope and Battle Creeks; Juvenile anadromous salmonid emigration monitoring on the Sacramento River at the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation; Estimating the abundance of Sacramento River juvenile winter Chinook salmon with comparisons to adult escapement; Butte Creek spring-run Chinook salmon life history investigation; Vegetation and wildlife response to native grass restoration on the Llano Seco Unit, Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge; Assessment of vegetative and wildlife responses to innovative restoration design on the Beehive Bend Unit; VELB Colonization of Planted Riparian Restoration Projects along the Middle Sacramento River; Sub-surface water quality monitoring on restored riparian sites along the middle Sacramento River; Vegetation, Flood Flows and Erosion (Science Program); Sacramento River Riparian Monitoring and Assessment Project; Upper Sacramento River Basin Chinook salmon escapement monitoring program; Nicolaus Property acquisition; Big Chico Creek; Llano Seco Conservation Easement; and Brayton Unit.**

Activity Reports and updates were also given throughout the year for the following projects: *Bend Area National Conservation Area, Lake Red Bluff Recreation Area, Bloody Island Conservation Easement, River Road, Rio Vista Unit, Llano Seco Riparian Sanctuary, Chico Landing Subreach, Colusa Subreach Planning, Drumheller Slough Unit, Tisdale Weir, Colusa Boat Ramp Study, M&T Llano Seco, Woodson Bridge and Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge.*

For detailed information go to [www.srcfprojecttracker.org](http://www.srcfprojecttracker.org)



SRCAF Board members (l to r): Don Anderson, Landowner Rep. (LR), Glenn Co.; Dan Gover, LR, Shasta Co.; Glenn Hawes, Public Interest Rep.(IR), Shasta Co.; Ron Warner, IR, Tehama Co.; and Brandon Muncy, US Army Corps of Engineers.

## SRCAF news highlights

### Board proposes Landowner Assurance/Incentive Package

The Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum is submitting a proposal for a CALFED Working Landscape Grant. The concept for the proposal was developed through discussions by members of the Landowners Assurances Committee. The key elements of the proposal are: 1) Investigate and develop a regulatory assurances program to protect participating landowners from incidental take of endangered species; 2) Develop an assistance program to help landowners in accessing incentive programs for habitat conservation.

The regulatory assurances task will investigate the species and area to be covered, develop an agreement that provides assurances to protect landowners for incidental take of those species, and establish a framework for administering the program.

The incentive package will include the development of a suite of programs from various sources for conservation on private lands, help landowners prepare applications, provide technical information and assist in resolving permitting problems.

Coupled with the review and tracking of projects by both the TAC and the Board, the Working Landscapes proposal tasks cover the issues identified in the Good Neighbor Policy by the Landowners Assurances Committee.

# Advisory Workgroup on tour

By Gregg Werner

Colusa Subreach Planning (CSP), a partnership between SRCAF and the Nature Conservancy (TNC), is moving forward with a series of planning and research projects that were chosen by the twenty-one member Advisory Workgroup (AW). The AW sponsored a survey of landowners in the Subreach and a public input meeting. It met twelve times over the last year to identify the major questions and concerns of local landowners. From these, they selected projects that would provide the most usable information to help answer questions and design wildlife habitat restoration projects that are compatible with the other important functions in the Subreach: agriculture, flood control, water supply and recreation.

Four principal projects are moving forward under the AW's direction: 1) Hydraulic Analysis including modeling of the entire Colusa Subreach to evaluate existing channel capacity and the effects of potential restoration projects; 2) Recreation Planning to improve access to public lands and to develop a master plan for the expansion of the Colusa-Sacramento River State Recreation Area, on a 243 acre site that TNC is proposing to donate to the State Department of Parks and Recreation; 3) Economic Analysis to determine the effect of land transfers and projects on local governments and economy; 4) Regulatory and Pest Analysis to determine the potential effects of new wildlife habitat on adjoining agricultural operations and ways to limit any negative effects.

The AW approved the scope of these projects and is helping to select experts to develop information. They will also follow these projects and oversee the presentation of the results to the public.

The Workgroup recently took a field trip in November to visit existing and proposed wildlife habitat restoration sites, as well as potential recreation areas. Their familiarity with the Subreach and the various properties will be extremely important, as they help to develop a strategy for the conservation of wildlife habitat that is compatible with the other important uses of the area inside of the flood control levees.

CSP will continue into mid 2007 and all reports and documents will be available to the public. For further information contact SRCAF Manager, Burt Bundy at 530-528-7411; TNC ProjectManager, Gregg Werner at 530-897-6370-x216.



The Advisory Workgroup's first stop was at the top of the levee overlooking the Ward property. The proposed site includes 143 acres. Gregg Werner, center, pointed out items of interest along the way. The tour began at the Sacramento River State Recreation Area in Colusa and the weather held as the group visited seven sites considered for restoration.

## 6th State of the Sacramento River Watershed Conference



Over 200 people attended the Sacramento River Watershed Conference, October 27-28, 2005 at the Red Bluff Community Center. John Merz, President, Sacramento River Preservation Trust, moderated the first conference in four years.

Thursday's guest speakers included: Diana Jacobs, DFG, gave an overview on CALFED; John Lowrie, CBDA, discussed the Watershed Program; Rebecca Fris, CBDA, reviewed the Ecosystem Restoration Program and the Science Program review and Denny Bungarz discussed the Working Landscapes program.

Introductions to topics covered in the afternoon breakout discussion sessions were given by: John Carlon, River Partners; Kathy Russick, Sacramento River Watershed Program; Gregg Werner, The Nature Conservancy; Tom Griggs, River Partners; Steve Schoenig, CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture; and Dennis Bowker, CBDA. Topics included habitat restoration, water quality, river recreation and access, fisheries and wildlife, invasive plants and local watershed programs. Breakout sessions were held in the afternoon.

The lunch time keynote speaker, Stein Buer, Executive Director, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, spoke on the subject "Floods in Our Future: Nature is Ready...Are We?"

At the stakeholder meeting and dinner, Butch Hodgkins, SRWP Board of Trustees Chair, discussed the Vision for SRWP. He then introduced California Assemblyman Doug LaMalfa who spoke about views on Northern California Watersheds.

Field trips were held on Friday to the Clear Creek Restoration Project, Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge Restoration, and the Bend Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

The SRCAF, Sacramento River Watershed Program and Sacramento River Preservation Trust were partners in this endeavor.



The last stop for the CSP tour group included a beautiful view of the Sacramento River, near the old Cruise 'n' Tarry marina. The Cruise 'n' Tarry Tract is a nine acre proposed restoration site.



## Water Wise:

**Q.** What percentage of water is available for human consumption?

**A.** Nearly 97% of the world's water is saltwater or otherwise undrinkable. 2% is held in ice caps and glaciers. That leaves just one percent for all of humanity's needs - agricultural, residential, manufacturing, and community needs.



# Technical Advisory Committee

•**At the October TAC**-Big Chico Creek – Matt Teague, district civil engineer, presented the Parks and Recreation Big Chico Creek access project (Project Tracker #92). The 40 acre Peterson riparian addition includes a car top boat launching facility next to the River Road Bridge, a parking lot upstream from the mouth of the Creek and hiking trails.

M&T/Llano Seco – Olen Zirkle gave a PowerPoint presentation for the Fish Screen Short-term/Long term Project (Project Tracker #93). Seven long term alternatives were initially reviewed, and reduced to focus on rock groins, Ranney Collectors and a combination of those that included dredging. Proposed interim alternatives included rock toe and brush revetment.

Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge – Kelly Moroney announced the grand opening celebration for the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge, Saturday, October 15 at the Ord Bend Unit. Kelly also announced the Rio Vista project is 80% completed.

BLM Bend Area - Kelly Williams, BLM, gave an update on the Bend Area Recreation proposal which was passed by both Tehama and Shasta County Supervisors and introduced to Congress.

•**At the November TAC**-Llano Seco Conservation Easement – Scott Clemons, WCB, gave a presentation on the 4,000 acres proposed for purchase (Project Tracker #94). Most of the Ag land is maintained in the condition of the Spanish Land Grant (circa 1850).

Brayton Unit – Dan Efseaff, River Partners, gave the presentation on the Brayton Unit (Project Tracker #96), which features restoring and enhancing 41 acres, including recreational and interpretive facilities.

Stacy Cepellodistributed a copy of the SRCA Cross-Boundary Listed Wildlife Species Issues (state and federal). Phase I includes the investigation of the Safe Harbor and determines which species make sense for inclusion.

Woody Elliott, Department of Parks and Recreation, distributed a handout regarding the Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park Preliminary General Plan and Re-circulated Draft Environmental Impact Report. Initially consultant(s) felt there was adverse impact to wildlands; however, that decision was reversed.

Dan Efseaff, gave an update on the next Llano Seco Riparian Sanctuary/PCGIDPhase II (study and design of preferred alternative), and potential future steps of the joint project (Project Tracker #110).

**A TAC meeting was not held in December.**

## Board Business

At the October meeting, the SRCAF Board unanimously approved letters to proponents indicating they have met with the guidelines and principles of the SRCAF handbook for: Big Chico Creek (Project Tracker #92), Llano Seco Conservation Easement (Project Tracker #94) and M&T Llano Seco Pumping Plant (Project Tracker #93). Burt gave a manager's report noting the annual report will be available at the January meeting and an Advisory Council meeting will be scheduled. Denny Bungarz is Chair of the Advisory Council. Letters of notification were also sent to Board of Supervisor's offices for SRCAF Board appointments. Also, Ben Carter, Landowner Representative for Colusa County, is a new appointee to the State Reclamation Board.

In December, the Board voted to send a letter for the Llano Seco Riparian Sanctuary/PCGID Phase II (study and design of preferred alternative) indicating that it had been presented as information to both the TAC and the Board. During Announcements, Ben Carter raised a concern about the lack of incentives for private landowners, and requested that the SRCAF no longer support restoration projects until agencies address his concerns. For lack of information, the Board asked that Ben provide background documentation and a specific request. Three projects were updated: Hamilton City—Funding and Preliminary Engineering & Design agreements are in place, and the SRCAF will facilitate a workgroup meeting in January; M & T Ranch Pumps—Permit application for an interim project to prevent further bank movement is slow, but moving; and the Colusa Sub-reach Advisory Workgroup is developing specific studies in several areas, mostly dealing with flooding issues.

*Have a very Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year*

*from the SRCAF staff:*

**Burt**

*Bev  
Ellen*



California Assemblyman Doug LaMalfa spoke at the Sacramento River Watershed Program stakeholder meeting and dinner, held in October. He covered views on Northern California watersheds, and said, "Flood control is on the front burner." He is a native Californian, a 4th generation rice farmer and makes his home in Richvale.





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**Don Anderson** ~ *Past Chair, Glenn County*

## Calendar of Events

### **TAC meeting**

January 10, 9:30a.m. to 12 noon  
Willows City Hall

### **SRCAF Board meetings**

January 19, 3:00p.m. to 5:00p.m.  
Monday Afternoon Club, Willows  
March 16, 3:00p.m. to 5:00p.m.  
Monday Afternoon Club, Willows

### **Colusa Subreach Advisory Workgroup meetings**

January 9, 10:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.  
Colusa Farm Bureau  
February 6, 10:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.  
Colusa Farm Bureau

### **Hamilton City Workgroup meeting**

January 23, 9:30a.m.  
Hamilton City Fire Hall

